

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12316 01 OF 02 061322Z

ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15

SOE-02 OES-07 DLOS-09 ACDA-12 /135 W

-----035700 061340Z /46

R 061313Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8804

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 12316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EN R G, EG, IS US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE

- ON ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION IN OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN
- TERRITORY

REF: (A) CAIRO 12108, (B) STATE 114310

1. FONMIN'S CHEF DE CABINET, AHMED MAHER, TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING TO ADVISE THAT SIGNED LETTER FROM KAMEL TO THE SECRETARY ON REFERENCED SUBJECT WAS BEING HAND-CARRIED TO EMBASSY FOR FORWARDING. TEXT OF LETTER, WHICH IS DATED APRIL 30, 1978, BUT WAS NOT SIGNED BY KAMEL UNTIL THIS MORNING, IS SET FORTH BELOW:

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY,

- THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT HAS, AS YOU MAY RECALL, COMMUNICATED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS, ITS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE ISRAELI OIL-EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION ACTIVITIES IN THE ISRAELI OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN TERRITORIES AND ADJACENT TERRITORIAL WATERS. THESE ISRAELI ACTIVITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 12316 01 OF 02 061322Z

WE STRESSED, ARE IN COMPLETE DEFIANCE OF RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

- THROUGHOUT OUR CONTACTS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER, WE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION, THAT THE VIEWS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE LEGAL ISSUES ARE IDENTICAL. WE ALSO TOOK NOTE, WITH APPRECIATION, THAT IN YOUR CONTACTS

WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, YOU CONSISTENTLY AFFIRMED THE ILLEGAL NATURE OF ITS ACTIVITIES. YET ALL YOUR ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE ISRAEL TO BRING TO AN END THESE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES CAME TO NO AVAIL BECAUSE ISRAEL DID NOT HEED YOUR REPRESENTATIONS. ON THE CONTRARY IT HAS, AS HAS BEEN WELL PUBLICIZED, INTENSIFIED AND WIDENED THE SCOPE OF ITS SEARCH FOR OIL. IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT THE STATEMENTS OF ISRAEL'S ENERGY MINISTER, ARE A CLEAR MANIFESTATION OF ISRAEL'S SINISTER DESIGNS ON EGYPTIAN OIL. SUCH STATEMENTS ADD ALARMING PROPORTIONS TO THE ALREADY GRAVE SITUATION. FURTHER, IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT SOME OIL COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE ISRAELI ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

- NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE TIMING OF THE ISRAELI PRONOUNCEMENTS AND THE FAR-REACHING DIMENSIONS OF ITS ACTIVITIES COULD UNDERMINE THE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT HAS THUS BECOME IMPERATIVE THAT NEW ENDEAVOURS BE URGENTLY UNDERTAKEN.

- ACCORDINGLY, WE CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO REGISTER OUR POSITION ON RECORD WITH THE UNITED NATIONS. ON APRIL 4TH, 1978, I ADDRESSED A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASKING HIM TO CIRCULATE IT AMONG MEMBER STATES. THE LETTER APPEARED IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOCUMENT (A/33/79). THE OBJECTIVE IS TO REMIND

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 12316 01 OF 02 061322Z

MEMBER STATES OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THEIR RESPONSABILITIES UNDER THE CHARTER AND THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

- ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING FACTORS, WITH GRAVE DETRIMENTAL CONSEQUENCES, EMANATE FROM ISRAEL'S UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS REGARDING THE STATUS OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ AND, ITS REPEATED HARASSMENT AND FORCIBLE PREVENTION OF EGYPTIAN OIL - DRILLING ACTIVITIES. THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY REJECTED THE ISRAELI ARGUMENTS AND HAS NEVER ACQUIESCED TO THE ISRAELI PRETENSIONS. THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO REAFFIRM ITS TOTAL REJECTION OF ALL SUCH CLAIMS AND ALLEGATIONS, THE SOLE OBJECTIVE OF WHICH, AS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE, IS AN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY ISRAEL'S ENCROACHMENTS AND SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF EGYPT'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ITS PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY THAT ISRAEL REFRAINS FROM ANY FURTHER HARASSMENT OF DRILLING OPERATIONS IN EGYPTIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS.

- IT IS OUR FIRM CONVICTION, MR. SECRETARY, THAT THE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL DEEM IT APPROPRIATE TO  
CONSIDER UNDERTAKING RENEWED EFFORTS WITH A VIEW TO  
DISCOURAGING ISRAEL FROM FURTHER PURSUING THIS IRRESPON-  
SIBLE AND ILLEGAL COURSE OF ACTION. THE UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT IS ALSO KINDLY REQUESTED TO ADVISE AMERICAN OIL  
COMPANIES AS TO THE ILLEGALITY OF THEIR PARTICIPATION,  
COOPERATION OR ASSISTANCE TO THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN  
ANY FORM OR MANNER IN THE EXPLOITATION OF THE NATURAL  
RESOURCES IN EGYPTIAN TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL  
AND THE NECESSITY TO ABIDE BY RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS  
RESOLUTIONS. IN THE MEANWHILE, THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT  
RESERVES ITS RIGHTS TO DEMAND RESTITUTION AND FULL COM-  
PENSATION FOR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM ANY FORM OF ASSOCIA-  
TION WITH THE ISRAELI ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.  
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PAGE 04 CAIRO 12316 01 OF 02 061322Z

- I AVAIL MYSELF, MR. SECRETARY, OF THIS OPPORTUNITY

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12316 02 OF 02 061324Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15  
SOE-02 OES-07 DLOS-09 ACDA-12 /135 W  
-----035712 061339Z /46

R 061313Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8805  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 12316

TO RENEW THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

- MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- MOHAMMED IBRAHIM KAMEL

UNQUOTE

3. SINCE A REPLY IS IN ORDER, RECOMMEND THAT LETTER BE SENT TO KAMEL FROM SECRETARY BASED ON CONTENTS REF B. AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY INFORMED MAHER, FOR KAMEL'S INFO, THAT COPIES OF LATTER'S EARLIER LETTER TO UNSYG HAVE BEEN SENT TO AMERICAN COMPANIES KNOWN TO BE ENGAGED IN OIL OPERATIONS IN OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN TERRITORY FOR GOI. MAHER WAS GRATEFUL. WRITTEN CONFIRMATION BY THE SECRETARY WOULD SEEM TO BE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO KAMEL'S LATEST MESSAGE.

4. SIGNED ORIGINAL OF KAMEL'S LETTER BEING AIR POUCHED TO DEPT (C/O NEA/EGY) FOR DELIVERY. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
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**Message ID:** 73613aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 CAIRO 12108, 78 STATE 114310  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE - ON ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION IN OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN - TERRITORY  
**TAGS:** PSDC, ENRG, MOPS, EG, IS, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (KAMEL, MOHAMMED IBRAHIM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014